

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of this application and consideration and entry of this paper are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herein, which place the application in condition for allowance.

Examiner Ware and Primary Examiner Naff are thanked for the many courtesies extended during our telephonic interview of February 8, 2008.

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 70-81 are currently under consideration. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8-14 are cancelled, and new claims 70-81 are added without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents.

Support for new claims 70-81 can be found in the original claims, *e.g.*, original claims 1-14, in cancelled claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8-14, and in the specification as originally filed, *e.g.*, in the paragraph bridging pages 13 and 14, and in the paragraph bridging pages 29 and 30, *inter alia*. No new matter is added.

It is submitted that the claims herewith are patentably distinct over the prior art, and these claims are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. The amendments to the claims presented herein are not made for purposes of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§§§ 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these amendments and additions are made simply to clarify the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. THE OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS ARE OVERCOME

Claim 10 was objected to for allegedly referring to another claim in a non-alternative form, and for depending on cancelled base claims. Claim 9 was objected to for reciting a trademark.

Applicants note that claims 10 and 9 are cancelled herein, which thereby renders these objections moot, and the new claims do not have these informalities. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the claims are respectfully requested.

III. THE REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112 IS OVERCOME

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. The Office Action contends that the claims are vague and indefinite because the process steps were allegedly incomplete, *e.g.*, by not defining the conditions for culturing the cells.

Applicants draw attention to the instant claims, wherein claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8-14 are cancelled, thereby obviating the rejection against these claims. Further, new claims 70-81 are compliant with the requirements under Section 112, second paragraph.

Indeed, the claims definitively and distinctly claim the method of the invention, as there is a clear recitation of the conditions for culturing the cells. For example, claim 70 recites that the cells are cultured in conditions wherein the cells are in contact with the support structure with the sugar-chain coat, and that the sugar chain coat, which has a β -D-glucopyranosyl non-reducing end or 2-acetoamide-2-deoxy- β -D-glucopyranosyl non-reducing end, can localize a receptor on the cells to thereby accumulate basement membrane components onto a basal surface of the cells. This results in the formation of the basement membrane. Thus, the instant claims are definite under Section 112, second paragraph.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

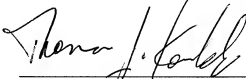
If any issue remains as an impediment to allowance, another interview with the Examiner and the Primary Examiner is respectfully requested, and the Examiner is additionally requested to contact the undersigned to arrange a mutually convenient time and manner for such an interview.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks and amendments herewith, the application is in condition for allowance. Consideration and entry of this paper, favorable reconsideration of the application, and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The undersigned looks forward to hearing favorably from the Examiner at an early date, and, the Examiner is invited to telephonically contact the undersigned to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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